

I have been a middle social studies teacher for almost 30 years. I always try to be objective when we do our unit on the election. The students never know for whom I am voting. I feel that this is the best way to teach - to be balanced and objective. I feel that the media has this same responsibility - to be fair and objective.

In all my 52 years on this planet, I have never seen the bipartisanship that I see today and I am afraid that the Sinclair Broadcasting Company has sunk to a new low by broadcasting a negative "documentary" about John Kerry. FOX News and Sinclair do not meet the basic criteria of what it means to be ethical in journalism.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.